

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 041143Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8846
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2197

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR RO COMECON PGOV ECON
SUBJECT: SOVIET-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. AT HUNGARIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION APRIL 3, SOVIET
MINISTER-COUNSELOR B.I. MINAKOV TOLD DCM ONE THEME OF MOSCOW
DISCUSSIONS OF INCOMING ROMANIAN STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN ILIE VERDET WAS PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT CMEA COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATE SPRING IN BUCHAREST AT CHIEFS
OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL. THIS MEANT KOSYGIN WOULD BE ATTENDING.

2. SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF VERDET VISIT, NONETHELESS, WAS TO
ATTEND MARCH 29-30 SESSION OF CMEA PLANNING COMMITTEE.
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MINAKOV SAID HE DID NOT HAVE REPORT ON AMBASSADOR BADRUS'
MARCH 31 MEETING WITH KOSYGIN, BUT SUSPECTED IT HAD TO DO
WITH "SOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS." PLANNING COMMITTEE IS DISCUSSING
GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND GOALS FOR 1981-1985 FIVE-YEAR PLANS,
BUT OF COURSE ACTUAL COORDINATION TAKES PLACE BILATERALLY, RATHER
THAN IN CMEA MULTILATERAL FORUM. ROMANIANS ARE CURRENTLY PAR-
TICIPATING IN IRON ORE PROJECT, INVENTING IN SOVIET EXTRACTION

FACILITIES IN RETURN FOR ORE. THEY WANT INCREASED DELIVERIES FOR NEXT PLAN PERIOD; SOVIETS CAN ONLY RESPOND FAVORABLY IF ROMANIANS INCREASE INVESTMENT, WHICH THEY CLAIM THEY ARE UNABLE TO DO. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE MORE COAL WHICH SOVIETS ARE UNABLE TO GIVE THEM. (CZECHOSLOVAK COUNSELOR JANDIK INTERJECTED SAGELY THAT CSSR WAS IN SAME SITUATION RE ROMANIAN REQUESTS FOR COAL.)

3. ASKED WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOVIET-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITHIN RESHUFFLED ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP, MINAKOV SAID VERDET WOULD HAVE A GOOD DEAL OF RESPONSIBILITY, AS STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, BUT SO WOULD RECENTLY ADVANCED POLEXCO AND PERMANENT BUREAU MEMBER IOSIF BANC. ASKED WHO WOULD SPEAK INTERNATIONALLY FOR COMECON WITH MARINESCU'S DEPARTURE, HE SAID HE ASSUMED IT WOULD BE NEW ROMANIAN PERMREP ION PATAN.

4. COMMENT: GOR'S AWARENESS THAT IT IS FACING LONG-TERM ECONOMIC SQUEEZE--PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS--APPEARS TO HAVE REACHED POINT OF TESTING COMECON PARTNERS' WILLINGNESS TO HELP OUT IN NEXT FYP PERIOD. ANSWERS SO FAR ARE NOT VERY ENCOURAGING. IN EARLIER CONVERSATION, WE WERE INFORMED BY POLISH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT GOP IS UNABLE TO MEET REQUESTS OF GOR FOR INCREASE IN COAL DELIVERIES. MINAKOV, WHILE NOT GLEEFUL, WAS UNUSUALLY SPECIFIC (FOR HIM) IN DESCRIBING ROMANIAN DEMANDS AND SOVIET INABILITY TO MEET THEM.

SIMONS

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